

Volunteer Training and Instructions

Thank you for volunteering to help reduce vehicle idling at our local elementary schools!

The students of Morningside Elementary (Team PEACE [Protecting Everyone and our Cool Earth]) have prepared a video that you can watch to see Volunteers in action. You can also read the following instructions and sample scripts to help prepare before you start.

FIRST.... A few rules and safety precautions!

Your role in this anti-idling campaign will be having friendly conversations about “Idle Free Utah” with interested drivers who are sitting in vehicles waiting for students to come out of school. When doing this, you must **look out for your own safety, and the safety of children** getting in and out of vehicles! Stay out of roadways where you could be hit by a car, and don’t block any sidewalks so that people need to step into the road to go around you. Please check with your school principal and see if there are any school-specific safety rules that you need to follow.

Second, it is very important that the drivers do not feel threatened or scared by you. Carry a notebook or clipboard with an anti-idling flyer on it so you look official. Always be warm, friendly, courteous, and respectful. Approach each car from the front, so the driver can see you walking up. If the conversation becomes negative, just thank the driver for his or her time, and move on.

Younger volunteers may wish to work in pairs, to provide additional security. They may also wish to wear some type of school safety vest or pennie, if available, to distinguish themselves from the children being picked up.

If you expect some drivers to be more comfortable speaking a language other than English, please try to recruit some volunteers that are comfortable speaking to non-English speakers.

Materials you will need

Here’s what you should carry:

- A flyer that describes the campaign in both English and Spanish – you can show it to drivers that are having trouble understanding your description. (pick up in office)
- Window Decals to give out to drivers that wish to participate. (pick up in office)
- A tablet of paper, a notebook, or clipboard, so that you look official. (Please bring your own tablet, notebook, or clipboard)

- Optional – wear a safety vest or a sports pennie to increase visibility and look official (bring your own, or see if the school can provide).

What to do

The materials (windshield decals, flyers for the volunteers to carry, and some logos that you can tape onto the school's sandwich boards for a curbside display) will be delivered to each participating school's main office by Sept. 22.

On September 23 and 24, about 15 minutes before school is dismissed for the day, go out to the curb or other area where cars wait for their students to come out. Approach the first car from the front, smiling at the driver and staying in a safe area out of traffic. Then, ask the driver for permission to talk about Idle Free Utah! If they don't want to discuss it, just thank them and move on!

Here's a couple sample scripts..... Notice how the volunteer always obtains permission to talk about Idle Free Utah.

Script # 1

Volunteer: Hello, Ma'am! Can I talk to you about Idle Free Utah?

Driver (a little tentative): Sure, I guess so... What is it?

Volunteer: Idle Free Utah is a campaign to help drivers get in the habit of turning off their engine whenever they will be parked and waiting. By adopting this habit, you can save money on gas, you can protect the health of people in and around your car, and you can help keep our sky blue!

Driver (more enthusiastic): That sounds great; I hate it when I'm around cars that sit and idle for a long time!

Volunteer: If you'd like to join Idle Free Utah, I have a window decal you can put inside your windshield, to remind yourself and others to "Turn your key, be idle free!"

Driver: Thanks, I'll do that. (Driver puts it in upper left corner of windshield, face out)

Volunteer: Thanks for your time! And if you have any questions about the campaign, you can go online to www.idlefree.utah.gov Have a great afternoon!

Driver: You too... and, Good Job!!! Thanks for doing this!

Script #2

Volunteer: Hello, Ma'am! Can I talk to you about Idle Free Utah?

Driver (a little tentative): Sure, I guess so... What is it?

Volunteer: Idle Free Utah is a campaign to help drivers get in the habit of turning off their engine whenever they will be parked and waiting. By adopting this habit, you can save money on gas, you can protect the health of people in and around your car, and you can help keep our sky blue!

Driver: But I'm only going to be here a couple minutes, and I've heard that my car uses more gas when I restart it than it does when I let it sit and idle!

Volunteer: That was true of cars back in the 70's! But today's modern cars start up easily with very little fuel or engine wear. Studies have shown that 10 seconds of idling uses more gas than restarting your engine.

Driver: Then what about warming up my car in the morning? I've always heard that you should warm up your car for several minutes.

Volunteer: Today's modern cars no longer require a long warm-up; it takes 30 seconds or less for the engine to be ready to start driving. It's better for your engine, and other parts of the car too, if you warm up the car with a few minutes of gentle driving.

Volunteer: If you'd like to join Idle Free Utah, I have a window decal you can put inside your windshield, to remind yourself and others to "Turn your key, be idle free!"

Driver: Thanks, I'll do that. (Driver puts it in upper left corner of windshield, face out)

Volunteer: Thanks for your time! And if you have any questions about the campaign, you can go online to www.idlefree.utah.gov Have a great afternoon!

Driver: You too... and, Good Job!!! Thanks for doing this!

Script #3

Volunteer: Hello, Sir! Can I talk to you about Idle Free Utah?

Driver: I only have a minute, I'm picking up my son. But I haven't heard of it.

Volunteer: This will only take a minute or less! Would you like to hear what it is?

Driver: ok, I guess.

Volunteer: Idle Free Utah is a campaign to help drivers get in the habit of turning off their engine whenever they will be waiting. By adopting this habit, you can save money on gas and repairs, you can protect the health of people in and around your car, and you can help keep our sky blue!

Driver: I'm sorry, I don't really understand what its about yet...

Volunteer: Would you like to look at this flyer? [show them the flyer with both English and Spanish descriptions] It describes the benefits of not idling your engine.

Driver (more enthusiastic): Oh, I see! This actually sounds like a great idea! But I thought it was worse to restart my car than to just let it idle?

Volunteer: That was true of cars back in the 70's. But today's modern cars start up easily with very little fuel or engine wear. Studies have shown that most modern cars use less gas if they are turned off rather than idled, even for just 10 seconds. If you'd like to join Idle Free Utah, I have a window decal you can put inside your windshield, to remind yourself and others to follow the 10 second rule. [Holding it up] It says "Turn your key, be idle free!"

Driver: Thanks, I'll do that. (Driver starts to put decal down in car)

Volunteer: Would you like to put the decal on right now? We can make sure it sticks correctly!

Driver: Sure, I guess so (puts it in upper left corner of windshield, face out).

Volunteer: Thanks for your time, and for joining in the effort to reduce idling! And if you have any questions about the campaign, you can go online to www.idlefree.utah.gov Have a great afternoon!

Driver: Thank you!

More good stuff

If you get asked a question that you don't know how to answer, or if the driver wants more information on the campaign to recruit others, refer him or her to www.idlefree.utah.gov Window decals like the ones you're handing out will be available to other drivers that want to join Idle Free Utah at Salt Lake City and Salt Lake County libraries.

Do your best to make sure the driver hangs the decal up right away... otherwise, it might float around the car for a while and get lost or thrown out.

Thank you for volunteering your time. We are excited about Idle Free Utah, and what we will accomplish together!